

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

1. - .17 (Canceled)

18. (New) A bezel for facilitating connection between an external device positioned on one side of a communication panel and a module located on an opposite side of the communication panel, the communication panel having an opening for receiving the bezel, the bezel comprising:

a housing, the housing defining an interior portion;

a first open end for insertion into the opening and the module, wherein the first open end receives a first communication connection of the module for connection with the external device; and

a second open end having a removable cover,

wherein the second open end receives at least a second communication connection of the external device for connection with the first communication connection, without substantially disrupting operation of the module,

wherein the external device comprises an optical attenuator, and

wherein the interior portion also is for housing an optical coupler for connecting the first communication connection of the module to the second communication connection of the external device.

19. (New) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the optical coupler comprises an SC optical coupler.

20. (New) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the housing is positioned at an angle relative to the communication panel.

21. (New) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the housing includes a side having an edge for engagement of at least an edge of the optical coupler.

22. (New) A method for optically coupling an optical attenuator to a communication module disposed on an internal side of a panel, comprising the steps of:

optically coupling an optical coupler to the communication module, wherein the coupling is facilitated by an opening in the panel that provides access from an external side of the panel to the communication module; and

optically connecting an end of the optical attenuator to the optical coupler, to thereby optically couple the optical attenuator to the communication module through the optical coupler.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 22, further comprising:

positioning at least a portion of the optical coupler within a housing of a mechanical bezel; and

attaching the mechanical bezel to the communication module through the opening in the panel, to thereby cause the optical coupler to become optically coupled to communication module.

24. (New) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the optical coupler is a SC coupler.

25. (New) A method according to Claim 22, further comprising connecting an external optical connector to another, opposite end of the optical attenuator.

26. (New) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the optical attenuator is disposed, at least initially, on an external side of the panel opposite to the internal side of the panel.

27. (New) A mechanical bezel, comprising:

a first, housing portion having an inner channel extending between first and second open ends of the first, housing portion; and

a second portion extending from the first open end of the first, housing portion, and being adapted to couple the mechanical bezel to a communication module disposed on an internal side of a panel when at least a portion of the mechanical bezel is inserted at least partially through an opening of the panel.

28. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, further comprising a cover disposed at the second open end of the first, housing portion, the cover being adjustable for being placed in either a closed position to provide covering at the second open end, or an opened position in which at least part of the second open end is not covered by the cover.

29. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the mechanical bezel is disposed at an angle relative to the panel.

30. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 29, wherein the second open end is disposed in a lower orientation than is the first open end.

31. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein at least a portion of an optical coupler is disposed in the channel.

32. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 31, wherein the optical coupler is optically connected to the communication module.

33. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 31, wherein an optical attenuator is optically coupled to the communication module through the optical coupler.

34. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the mechanical bezel couples to the communication module without substantially disrupting operation of the communication module.

35. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the mechanical bezel couples to the communication module without placing the communication module out of service.

36. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein an optical attenuator is optically coupled to the communication module.

37. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 31, wherein the optical coupler is a SC coupler.

38. (New) A mechanical bezel according to Claim 33, wherein an external optical connector is connected to an end of the optical attenuator opposite to an end of the optical attenuator to which the communication module is optically coupled.